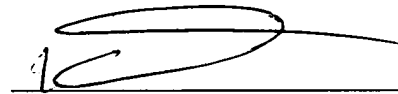


REMARKS

Preliminary to the examination of the above-identified patent application, applicant submit herewith an amendment to the claims. No new matter has been added.

If for any reason this PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT is found to be incomplete, or if at any time it appears that a telephone conference with counsel would help advance prosecution, please telephone the undersigned or his associates, collect in Waltham, Massachusetts, (781)890-5678.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirk Teska', written over a horizontal line.

Kirk Teska
Reg. No. 36,291

WO 01/71189

PCT/GB01/01240

8

CLAIMS

1. A valve assembly comprising a reed, a port which is opened and closed by the reed, and damper means for the reed, the damper means comprising a tube which is in communication with the port on a side of the port remote from the reed, and the tube being of such a size that, in use of the valve assembly, the tube contains sufficient fluid to provide substantial damping for the reed.
2. A valve assembly according to claim 1 in which the tube is such that it extends vertically above the port.
3. A valve assembly according to claim 1 or claim 2 in which the port is in a valve plate, and in which the length of the tube is greater than the diameter of the port.
4. A valve assembly according to claim 3 in which the length of the tube is at least twice the diameter of the port.
5. *(one needed)* A compressor or a pump when including a valve assembly according to ~~any one of the preceding claims.~~
claim 1.